



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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GENTIANA PROSTRATA **PYGMY GENTIAN**

Pygmy Gentian is a low annual to short-lived perennial with several prostrate to erect stems that are 1-10 cm long. The broadly elliptic, opposite, overlapping leaves sheath the stem and are 3-5 mm long with pale margins. The light green foliage is glabrous. Solitary flowers are borne at the stem tips. The green or bluish, tubular calyx is 6-14 mm long and has 4 lobes that are each 1/3 the length of the tube. The light blue, tubular corolla is 12-22 mm long and has 4 lobes with conspicuous plaits inside between the lobes. Corolla lobes spread open during mid-day but are otherwise twisted closed. The narrowly elliptic, stalked capsule is ca. 1 cm long. Flowering in June-August; variable with elevation.

GENTIANA AQUATICA is very similar but has white flowers and usually occurs at lower elevations. *G. GLAUCA* has creeping stems but usually bears more than 1 flower per stem.